

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel the existing Claims 1-20.

Please add the following new claims 21-248:

21. (New) A graphical user interface for a software application, comprising:

a document area for an application; and

a substrate area for the application, the substrate area operable to display a message when a cursor is in the document area and to display functions that support the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

22. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, further comprising an application window for the application, the application window comprising the document area and the substrate area.

23. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 22, wherein the document area comprises about 60 to 80 percent of the application window, the substrate area comprises about 20 to 40 percent of the application window, and the message displayed in the substrate area comprises substantially all of the substrate area.

24. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the message is displayed in substantially all of the substrate area.

25. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the substrate area is operable to display a menu that

supports the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

26. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the substrate area is operable to display tools that support the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

27. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the substrate area is operable to display controls that support the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

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28. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the substrate area is operable to display information that supports the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

29. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 22, wherein the substrate area is displayed above and substantially in line with the document area.

30. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, further comprising a plurality of discrete substrate areas, each substrate area operable to display a disparate message when the cursor is in the document area and to display functions that support the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

31. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 30,  
further comprising:

a top substrate area displayed above and substantially in  
line with the document area; and

a bottom substrate area displayed below and substantially  
in line with the document area.

32. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 31,  
further comprising:

the top substrate area operable to display a menu in  
place of the message when the cursor is in the top substrate  
area; and

the bottom substrate area operable to display user  
maneuvering information in place of the message when the  
cursor is in the bottom substrate area.

33. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the message is displayed in another area of a screen  
display including the document and substrate areas when the  
cursor is in the substrate area.

34. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 22,  
wherein the message is displayed in the application window  
outside of the substrate area when the cursor is in the  
substrate area.

35. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the message is  
displayed in the document area when the cursor is in the  
substrate area.

36. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, the substrate area further operable to display the functions when the cursor moves into the substrate area.

37. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, further comprising the substrate area operable to display the message by default when the cursor is outside of the substrate area.

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38. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the substrate area is operable to display the functions only in response to pre-defined user commands including the cursor moving into the substrate area.

39. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the message is displayed in a floating window substantially masking the functions that support the document area.

40. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 39, wherein the floating window is anchored to the substrate area.

41. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 39, wherein the floating window is operable to be closed to expose the functions that support the document area when the cursor enters the substrate area.

42. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 39, wherein the floating window is HTML compliant.

43. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 39,  
wherein the floating window JAVA compliant.

44. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the message comprises a sponsor message.

45. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the message comprises a video message.

46. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 22,  
wherein the message comprises a broadband video message.

47. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the message comprises an executable program.

48. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the message comprises real-time information.

49. (New) The graphical user of Claim 21, wherein the  
message comprises an audio message.

50. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the message comprises a foreign program interface.

51. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the message comprises a local television broadcast.

52. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the message comprises a local radio broadcast.

53. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between employees of a company.

54. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between members of a chat group.

55. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the message comprises news.

56. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the message comprises real-time communications.

57. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the message comprises mail for the user.

58. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the substrate area is operable to display the message non-stop while the application is in focus.

59. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the substrate area is operable to intermittently display the message.

60. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the application is a network browser.

61. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the application is an Internet browser.

62. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, the substrate area further operable to display the message when the cursor moves into the substrate area while a control key is active.

63. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 62, wherein the message comprises an active link.

64. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 63, wherein the active link comprises a link to a sponsor Web Site.

65. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 36, wherein the substrate area is operable to redisplay the message in place of the functions when the cursor leaves the substrate area.

66. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the graphical user interface comprises a patch for the application.

67. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21, wherein the graphical user interface and the application comprise an integrated application.

68. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 67, wherein the graphical user interface comprises an external module sub-routine procedure for the application.

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69. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 21,  
wherein the application is a start-up program for a client  
computer.

70. (New) A graphical user interface for a software application, comprising:

an application window;

a document area in the application window;

a substrate area in the application window, the substrate area operable to display functions that support the document area; and

a floating window operable to substantially mask the substrate area by default, to display a message, and to disappear to expose the functions in the substrate area in response to at least one of a keyboard command and the cursor in the substrate area.

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71. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the functions comprise a menu for the application.

72. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the functions comprise tools for the application.

73. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the functions comprise controls for the application.

74. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the functions comprise information for the application.

75. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, further comprising:

a plurality of discrete substrate areas, each substrate area operable to discrete functions that support the application; and

a plurality of floating windows each operable to mask one of the substrate areas by default, to display a disparate message, and to disappear to expose functions in the substrate area in response to at least one of a keyboard command and the cursor moving into the substrate area.

76. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the substrate area is a top substrate area displayed above and substantially in line with the document area.

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77. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 75, further comprising:

a top substrate area displayed above and substantially in line with the document area; and

a bottom substrate area displayed below and substantially in line with the document area.

78. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 77, further comprising:

a top floating window anchored to the top substrate area and operable to expose a menu for the application; and

a bottom floating window anchored to the bottom substrate area and operable to expose user maneuvering functions.

79. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is operable to be displayed in another area of the application window upon disappearing to expose the functions in the substrate area.

80. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is operable to be displayed in the

document area upon disappearing to expose the functions in the substrate area.

81. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is operable to disappear when the cursor moves into the substrate area.

82. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is operable to disappear from the substrate area only in response to the keyboard command and the cursor in the substrate area.

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83. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is HTML compliant.

84. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is JAVA compliant.

85. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the message comprises a sponsor message.

86. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the message comprises a video message.

87. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the message comprises a broadband video message.

88. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the message comprises an executable program message.

89. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises real-time information.

90. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises an audio message.

91. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises a foreign program interface.

92. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises a local television broadcast.

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93. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises a local radio broadcast.

94. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises real-time communication between  
employees of a company.

95. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises real-time communication between  
members of a chat group.

96. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises news.

97. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises real-time communications.

98. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the message comprises mail for the user.

99. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is operable to display the message non-stop.

100. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is operable to display the message intermittently.

101. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the software application is a network browser.

102. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the software application is an Internet browser.

103. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70, wherein the floating window is operable to remain masking the substrate area in response to movement of the cursor into the substrate area while a control key is active.

104. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 103, wherein the message comprises an active link.

105. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 104, wherein the active link comprises a link to a sponsor Web Site.

106. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 81, wherein the protective window re-masks the substrate area when the cursor leaves the substrate area.

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107. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the floating window comprises a patch program for the  
software application.

108. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the floating window comprises an integral part of the  
software application.

109. (New) The graphical user interface of Claim 70,  
wherein the software application is a start-up program for a  
client computer.

110. **(New)** A system for displaying information to a user of a graphical user interface, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

software stored on the computer-readable medium, the software operable to display a document area for an application, to display a message in a substrate area for the application when a cursor is in the document area, and to display functions that support the document area in place of the message in the substrate area when the cursor is in the substrate area.

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111. **(New)** The system of Claim 110, wherein the message is displayed in substantially all of the substrate area.

112. **(New)** The system of Claim 110, wherein the functions comprise a menu for the application.

113. **(New)** The system of Claim 110, wherein the functions comprise controls for the application.

114. **(New)** The system of Claim 110, wherein the functions comprise information for the application.

115. **(New)** The system of Claim 110, wherein the substrate area is an upper substrate area disposed over and substantially in line with the document area.

116. **(New)** The system of Claim 110, the software further operable to display a disparate message in each of a plurality of substrate areas when the cursor is in the document area and to display functions that support the document area in the

place of a message in a substrate area when the cursor is in the substrate area.

117. (New) The system of Claim 116, wherein the plurality of substrate areas comprise a top substrate area above and substantially in line with the document area and a bottom substrate area below and substantially in line with the document area.

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118. (New) The system of Claim 117, the software further operable to display a menu in the upper substrate area when the cursor is in the upper substrate area and to display in the bottom substrate area user maneuvering functions when the cursor is in the lower substrate area.

119. (New) The system of Claim 110, the software further operable to display the message in the document area when the cursor is in the substrate area.

120. (New) The system of Claim 110, the software further operable to display the functions when the cursor moves into the substrate area.

121. (New) The system of Claim 110, the software further operable to display the message in the substrate area by default.

122. (New) The system of Claim 110, the software further operable to display the message in the substrate area except when the cursor is in the substrate area without activation of a control key.

123. (New) The system of Claim 110, the software further operable to display the message in a floating window substantially masking the functions that support the document window.

124. (New) The system of Claim 123, wherein the floating window is anchored to the substrate area.

125. (New) The system of Claim 123, the software further operable to close the floating window to expose the functions when the cursor is in the substrate area.

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126. (New) The system of Claim 123, wherein the floating window is HTML compliant.

127. (New) The system of Claim 123, wherein the floating window is JAVA compliant.

128. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises a sponsor message.

129. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises a video message.

130. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises a broadband video message.

131. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises an executable program.

132. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises real-time information.

133. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises audio.

134. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises a foreign program interface.

135. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises a local television broadcast.

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136. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises a local radio broadcast.

137. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between employees of a company.

138. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between members of a chat group.

139. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises news.

140. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises real-time communications.

141. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the message comprises mail for the user.

142. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the software comprises a network browser.

143. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the software comprises an Internet browser.

144. (New) The system of Claim 110, the software further operable to continue to display the message in the substrate area in response to the cursor entering the substrate area while a control key is active.

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145. (New) The system of Claim 144, wherein the message comprises an active link.

146. (New) The system of Claim 145, wherein the active link comprises a link to a sponsor Web Site.

147. (New) The system of Claim 120, the software further operable to redisplay the message when the cursor leaves the substrate area.

148. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the software comprises patch program.

149. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the software comprises an integrated application.

150. (New) The system of Claim 110, wherein the software comprises a start-up application for a client computer.

151. (**New**) A system for displaying information to a user of a graphical user interface, comprising:

a computer-readable medium;

software stored on the computer-readable medium, the software operable to automatically retrieve a message over the Internet in the background when the user is browsing the Internet, to locally store the message, to by default display the message to the user in a substrate area of an application, and to display functions for the application in the substrate area when a cursor is in the substrate area.

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152. (**New**) The system of Claim 151, the software further operable to display the functions for the application when the cursor moves into the substrate area.

153. (**New**) The system of Claim 151, the software further operable to display the functions for the application in response to a defined keyboard command.

154. (**New**) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises a sponsor message.

155. (**New**) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises a video message.

156. (**New**) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises a broadband video message.

157. (**New**) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises an executable program.

158. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises real-time information.

159. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises audio.

160. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises a foreign program interface.

161. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises a local television broadcast.

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162. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises a local radio broadcast.

163. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between employees of a company.

164. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between members of a chat group.

165. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises news.

166. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises real-time communications.

167. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the message comprises mail for the user.

168. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the software comprises a screensaver application.

169. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the software is operable to display the message in a window masking the functions for the application.

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170. (New) The system of Claim 169, the software further operable to automatically close the window when the cursor moves into the substrate area.

171. (New) The system of Claim 169, the software further operable to automatically display the window in a currently focused application window, the window operable to mask functions for the currently focused application.

172. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the functions comprise a menu for the application.

173. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the functions comprise tools for the application.

174. (New) The system of Claim 151, wherein the functions comprise controls for the application.

175. (New) A system for displaying information to a user of a graphical user interface, comprising:

a first means, responsive to opening of a target application, for locating a floating window in a substrate area of the target application;

a second means for retrieving and displaying a message in the floating window; and

a third means for user access to the substrate area for operating functions of the target application.

176. (New) The system of Claim 175, wherein the message is a sponsor message, further comprising fourth means for user access to a sponsor Web Site via the sponsor message.

177. (New) The system of Claim 176, further comprising fifth means for updating the sponsor message by program link with the sponsor Web Site in the background during idling time of the Web browser.

178. (New) A method for displaying information to a user of a graphical user interface, comprising:

displaying a document area of an application;

displaying a message in a substrate area of the application when a cursor is in the document area; and

displaying functions that support the document area in place of the message in the substrate area when the cursor is in the substrate area.

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179. (New) The method of claim 178, further comprising displaying the document area, the message and the functions in an application window for the application.

180. (New) The method of Claim 179, wherein the document area comprises about 60 to 80 percent of the application window, the substrate area comprises 20 to 40 percent of the application window, and the message comprises substantially all of the substrate area.

181. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message is displayed in substantially all of the substrate area.

182. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying a menu that supports the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

183. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying tools that support the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

184. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying controls that support the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

185. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying information that supports the document area in place of the message when the cursor is in the substrate area.

186. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying the document area ~~below and substantially in line with the substrate area.~~

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187. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising:  
displaying disparate messages to the user in each of a plurality of substrate areas of the application when the cursor is in the document area; and  
displaying functions that support the document area in a substrate area when the cursor is in the substrate area.

188. (New) The method of Claim 187, further comprising:  
displaying a first message in a top substrate area above and substantially in line with the document area; and  
displaying a second message in a bottom substrate area below and substantially in line with the document area.

189. (New) The method of Claim 188, further comprising:  
displaying a menu in place of the first message in the top substrate area when the cursor is in the top substrate area; and

displaying user maneuvering information in place of the second message in the bottom substrate area when the cursor is in the bottom substrate area.

190. **(New)** The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying the message in the document area when the cursor is in the substrate area.

191. **(New)** The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying the functions that support the document area in place of the message in the substrate area when the cursor moves into the substrate area.

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192. **(New)** The method of Claim 191, further comprising redisplaying the message in the substrate area when the cursor leaves the substrate area.

193.. **(New)** The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying the functions that support the document area in place of the message in the substrate area only in response to pre-defined user commands including the cursor moving in the substrate area.

194. **(New)** The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying the message in a floating window substantially masking the functions that support the document area.

195. **(New)** The method of Claim 180, wherein the floating window is anchored to the substrate area.

196. (New) The method of Claim 194, further comprising closing the floating window when the cursor enters the substrate area to expose the functions that support the document area.

197. (New) The method of Claim 194, wherein the floating window is HTML compliant.

198. (New) The method of Claim 194, wherein the floating window is JAVA compliant.

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199. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises a sponsor message.

200. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises a video message.

201. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises a broadband video message.

202. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises an executable program.

203. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises real-time information.

204. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises an audio message.

205. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises a foreign program interface.

206. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises a local television broadcast.

207. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises a local radio broadcast.

208. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between employees of a company.

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209. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between members of a chat group.

210. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises news.

211. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises real-time communications.

212. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the message comprises mail for the user.

213. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying the message non-stop while the cursor is in the document area.

214. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying the message intermittently while the cursor is in the document area.

215. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the application is a network browser.

216. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the application is an Internet browser.

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217. (New) The method of Claim 178, further comprising displaying the message in the substrate area when the cursor moves into the substrate area while a control key is active.

218. (New) The method of Claim 217, wherein the message comprises an active link.

219. (New) The method of Claim 218, wherein the active link comprises a link to a sponsor Web Site.

220. (New) The method of Claim 178, wherein the application is a start-up program for a client computer.

221. (**New**) A method for displaying information to a user of a graphical user interface, comprising:

automatically retrieving a message over the Internet when the user is browsing the Internet;

locally storing the message;

displaying the message by default in a window masking underlying functions in a substrate area of an application; and

closing the window to expose the underlying functions in response to at least one of a keyboard command and a cursor in the substrate area.

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222. (**New**) The method of Claim 221, further comprising closing the floating window in response to the cursor entering the substrate area.

223. (**New**) The method of Claim 221, further comprising closing the floating window response to the keyboard command.

224. (**New**) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises a sponsor message.

225. (**New**) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises a video message.

226. (**New**) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises a broadband video message.

227. (**New**) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises an executable program.

228. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises real-time information.

229. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises audio.

230. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises a foreign program interface.

231. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises a local television broadcast.

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232. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises a local radio broadcast.

233. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between employees of a company.

234. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises real-time communication between members of a chat group.

235. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises news.

236. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises real-time communications.

237. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the message comprises mail for the user.

238. (New) The method of Claim 221, further comprising displaying the message by default in a currently focused application window, window operable to mask functions for the currently focused application.

239. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the functions comprise a menu for the application.

240. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the functions comprise tools for the application.

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241. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the functions comprise controls for the applications.

242. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the window is HTML compliant.

243. (New) The method of Claim 221, wherein the window is JAVA compliant.

244. (New) The method of Claim 221, further comprising: closing the window to expose the underlying functions in the substrate area in response to at least one of the keyboard command and the cursor entering the substrate area; and displaying the window in another area of the application.

245. (New) The method of Claim 222, further comprising displaying the message in the window masking the underlying functions of the application in response to movement of the cursor into the substrate area while a control key is active.

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246. (New) The method of Claim 245, wherein the message comprises an active link.

247. (New) The method of Claim 246, wherein the active link comprises a link to a sponsor Web Site.

248. (New) The method of Claim 221, further comprising automatically retrieving the message over the Internet in the background when the user is browsing the Internet.

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